

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /115 W

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R 161549Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1458

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: A. BONN 9684; B. REYKJAVIK 0801; C. REYKJAVIK
0795; D. REYKJAVIK 0787.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JULY 14, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER
FROM LEGAL DIVISION OF FONMIN GAVE EMBOFF FRG
REACTION TO JULY 10 ICELANDIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON
EXTENSION OF FISHERIES LIMITS TO 200 MILES. HE
REPORTED THAT THE ACTION DID NOT COME AS A SURPRISE
TO THE FRG AND THAT THE CRUCIAL ELEMENT FROM THE
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GERMAN VIEW WAS THE WILLINGNESS OF ICELAND TO

NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT PROTECTING TRADITIONAL FISHING INTERESTS. ICELANDIC INTENTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED YET TO THE FRG. END SUMMARY.

2. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER TOLD EMBOFF THAT FRG AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK WAS ALSO INFORMED ON JULY 10 BY ANDERSEN OF THE ICELANDIC DECISION. GERMANS WERE NOT, OF COURSE, TAKEN BY SURPRISE BUT ARE UNSURE OF GOI'S INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE FRG. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC STILL WISHES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1974 DRAFT ACCORD, ALTHOUGH SOME CHANGES WOULD NOW HAVE TO BE MADE TO CORRESPOND TO THE 200-MILE LIMIT. FOR BOTH LEGAL REASONS AND TO PROTECT TRADITIONAL FISHING RIGHTS, THE FRG WISHES TO HAVE THE USE OF FREEZER TRAWLERS ACCEPTED AS A PRINCIPLE IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND. THE FRG IS NOW PREPARED TO REMOVE THESE TRAWLERS FROM THE AREA BETWEEN 0-50 MILES (BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN THE 50-200 MILE AREA), EVEN THOUGH SUCH ACTION WILL SERIOUSLY IMPAIR FRG FISH CATCHES, WHICH ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE 30-60 MILE RANGE.

3. FRG IS STILL WAITING FOR A RESPONSE TO ITS OVERTURES WHICH WERE MADE AT THE NATO MEETING IN BRUSSELS. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER COMMENTED THAT THE FRG CAN APPRECIATE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES IN ICELAND BUT IS UNHAPPY ABOUT WAITING FOR MONTHS ON END FOR GOI RESPONSE.

4. THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF WET FISH TRAWLERS AS OPPOSED TO FREEZER TRAWLERS IS A KEY ONE FOR THE FRG. WITHOUT ANY FREEZER TRAWLERS IN ICELANDIC WATERS, FRG WOULD BE ABLE TO CATCH ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ITS TRADITIONAL FISHING TAKE. MORE-OVER, PAST FEDERAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMS HAVE ENCOURAGED THE CONVERSION OF THE FRG FISHING FLEET FROM WET FISH TRAWLERS TO FREEZER TRAWLERS. THUS, THE EXCLUSION OF FREEZER TRAWLERS WOULD LEAD TO THE EVENTUAL PHASING OUT OF ALL FRG FISHING IN ICELANDIC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 11516

WATERS, SINCE THE USE OF WET FISH TRAWLERS IN FRG
FISHING OPERATIONS IS DECLINING.

5. FRG IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR
SETTLEMENT, SINCE ICELAND CONTINUES TO DEMAND THE
EXCLUSION OF ALL FREEZER TRAWLERS AND APPEARS TO BE
UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE FRG ON THE BASIS
OF THE NOVEMBER DRAFT ACCORD. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER
BELIEVES THAT THE FRG HAS COME ABOUT AS FAR AS IT
CAN ON THE ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL TO NOTE
THAT UK INTERESTS IN ICELANDIC FISHING WERE SOMEWHAT
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DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE FRG, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER INTIMATED THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE UK IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI. HE INDICATED FURTHER THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS NOT WILLING TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD PERHAPS IMPROVE THE CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS REMOVAL OF THE LANDING BAN OR WITHDRAWAL OF EC CONCESSION BLOCKAGE.

6. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER PLACED NO PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SPD VISIT REPORTED REF C. OR ON FORTHCOMING BARZEL VISIT REPORTED REF D. SPD PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIAL REJECTION OF NOVEMBER DRAFT ACCORD. BARZEL VISIT IS A PRIVATE ONE, AND FONMIN HAS RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT OFFICIAL MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED.
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